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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Carson Votes Against Pay Raise  
Congressman Calls Pay Raise "Irresponsible"***

Washington, D.C. --

Second District Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) said, "It is irresponsible for Congress to increase its pay, especially while our economy continues to weaken, workers are losing their jobs, we are running a national deficit and fighting the war on terrorism." On Wednesday, July 24th, Congressman Carson voted against the Treasury, Postal and General Government Appropriations bill, because it did not include language prohibiting the automatic pay raise of \$5,000.

"According to the Department of Labor, the unemployment rate is 5.9 percent which translates to over 8 million workers without work. As our nation faces this critical time of economic downturn, it is wrong for Congress to receive a pay raise. Americans are asked to sacrifice during this period of uncertainty, and Congress should lead by example," said Congressman Carson.

Under current law, members of the House and Senate will receive an automatic pay raise of \$5,000 in January 2003 unless Congress takes action. Congressman Carson joined 120 other House members in voting against the Appropriations bill and voting against the automatic pay raise.

"I made a promise to my constituents that I would not support any legislation that is used as a vehicle to raise Congress' pay. In a time of economic stress, rising unemployment, a national deficit, and the war on terror, it is irresponsible for Congress to increase its own salaries. Any pay increase should be met with full public accountability, and I will continue that push in Congress. I will refuse to take this pay raise, just as I have refused to take the previous increases."

In 2001, Congressman Carson was the only Oklahoman to vote against, and refuse to take, the Congressional pay raise.

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